



DISTRICT NO. 7 CARBON COUNTY

P.O. Box 590 300 N. Park Street Joliet, Montana 59041 406-962-3541 gojhawks.com

*Home of the J-Hawks*

March 18, 2020

Dear Joliet Parents and Guardians,

Thanks to students and parents who collected belongings today. It couldn't have gone more smoothly, and we all dug deep to overcome a lot of sadness and disappointment. We are in uncharted territory with many moving parts and lots of ambiguity. As a result, questions have arisen. I will try to answer them to the best of my ability.

What we know is that all schools received notice on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> that schools were being closed for two weeks. This mandate was made by the order of the Governor. As a District, we are trying to avoid cuts to funding and trying to avoid having to make these days up later in the year. As a precaution, the Joliet School District had an emergency board meeting to declare an unforeseen emergency. This measure helps us avoid funding reductions later.

As another precaution, we are making sure that aggregate hours of instruction are still covered. For this reason, teachers have been instructed to work on campus or remotely depending on their preference and capability. Many have initiated the Distance learning model by reaching out to students through email. **At this time, the work is voluntary and will not be graded.** We will continue to provide educational materials and work for your student through March 27.

Teachers are currently compiling the work; which may include electronic and/or paper and textbooks. Elementary families will be contacted directly by the teachers to find out how to best serve their students. Middle and high school families need to check each student's school email for specific information from the school and teachers. If families are unable to access the internet and/or do not have access to devices, we will have to get word to them. Please help share this information so that they can contact the school about their technology needs.

Much of the information being disseminated to the Joliet stakeholders is happening through our FB page, website and Infinite Campus Instant Messenger. If you're not receiving messages on your phone, please contact Brice Turk at [bturk@joliet.k12.mt.us](mailto:bturk@joliet.k12.mt.us) (all lower case, no hyphens). Let him know your full name, your student's name and your current cell phone or landline number.

We have applied for an emergency program which allows us to provide meals during this school closure. **These meals are free to all Joliet Public School students!** However, we ask that parents and guardians call to place orders. We do need daily lunch counts so that the kitchen staff can prepare the appropriate amount of food, and we will not be able to provide food if your name is not on the list. Please call Janet Williams at extension 207 between 7:00-9:00 AM to place pick-up orders. She will take your name, and you can collect the prepared meals between 11:30 AM and noon. Breakfast is also free for Joliet Public School students. Families can call to pick-up breakfast earlier if it is possible. We ask that students accompany parents when picking up the meals.

We ended Quarter 3 on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> right before the state mandated closure. For this reason, we are primed to run report cards on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. They should be mailed out on late Friday or early Monday. Please look for those report cards in the mail.

For 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, the ACT was supposed to occur on March 24<sup>th</sup>. This State test has been postponed to a later date, and all materials have been remanded to the State. The District will keep students apprised of the new test date when we know more.

For 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, please adhere to scholarship deadlines. If you need a transcript, please email Mr. Turk your request, and he will email a PDF to you so that you can attach your transcript to any scholarship applications.

As students were allowed to pick up materials from the school today, dual credit coursework will resume on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our dual credit teachers will be delivering full lectures and material virtually for students to follow on our Google Classrooms and Pearson accounts. We will be using the tech support provided by MSUB as well. Our dual credit classes did have a spring break built into them for April. The April spring break has now been absorbed, and dual credit classes should continue on schedule without difficulty. Joliet students, currently enrolled, have been informed that classes will begin again on Monday and that the demands of the college coursework will continue implementation from a distance learning platform.

Also, the Joliet special education teachers will reach out to parents in the next week. There are considerations that need to be taken into account, and the District will maximize best practices while recognizing the unique needs of each student.

This is a challenging time, and we are missing our students something fierce! It's just an empty brick-n-mortar building until the students bring it to life. We hope to reconvene in the near future, and the Joliet staff wishes all of you the best while we are apart. In the interim, we will keep you updated as much as possible.

Thanks for your patience,

Allison B. Evertz  
Joliet Superintendent